

BAXTER SPRINGS NEWS

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Being warned of the great dangers of overwork and the too rapid pace of American life, a large number of philosophers continue to sleep on park benches.

THINK IT OVER

The people of Baxter Springs may well consider the very important matter called to their attention last week by L. L. Cardin, pertaining to the question of street paving on Twelfth and Military streets.

Coming from a man who is well able and doubtless disposed to spend a great sum of money in local industries, his timely warning can hardly be passed over lightly.

Mr. Cardin's statement that he does not care to proceed with the big foundry site until he sees the outcome of the move to secure paving is right and is what any sensible business man would do under the circumstances.

If roads and streets adequate to handle heavy trucks cannot be had, then there is no use for iron foundries or any other kind of enterprise to come here; if Baxter Springs is to remain a one horse town and be dominated by the one horse ideas that some voters possess, then Mr. Cardin is justified in taking his plant to Picher or Quapaw or some other appreciative place.

Yesterday a business man who has interests in one of the big mills at Hockerville dropped into our office and without solicitation commented on the wonderful outlook for this city; its natural facilities; its grip on the mine game and the great chance of getting just as much ore right at our doors as there is at Picher; this man has his money invested at Hockerville but he is willing to bet his money on Baxter Springs as the logical center to the heart of the big field.

One business man who owns 155 feet along the proposed Twelfth street paving, and who signed the petition now being circulated as a remonstrance against the paving has confessed that he made a great mistake in signing it and will take his name off the petition if it can be done.

There is only one way to build a city and that is to build it four square which means to build it to sewerage—paving—plenty of water and the other things man has to supply in addition to what old mother nature furnishes. It's high time we are waking up—business is coming back. Are we going to take it in or are we going to turn it off onto a side street and see the procession go?

The motorists excuse themselves for the results of reckless driving, by the fact that they were going so fast they could not see the pedestrians.

TRADE WITH GERMANY

The Council of Four has announced the raising of the blockade against Germany. This is an announcement of the first importance: it will do more than any one single thing (save, of course, the declaration of peace itself) to restore the world to the longed for normalcy of pre-war days. With the necessities of life flowing again freely into Germany the elements in that country which have been trying to foment Bolshevism on the ground that it is the only remedy for Germany in view of the universal hatred with which she is regarded everywhere, will be effectively quieted. Food and clothing will be more plentiful and cheaper. Discontent will wane. Germany will again turn to building up her industry and commerce. The menace of Bolshevism will recede.

Vance C. McCormick, Chairman of the War Trade Board, said that the lifting of the blockade before the formal ratification of the peace treaty with Germany would mean the immediate resumption of trade relations between this country and Germany. There are a few exceptions, however, such as the reservations on the sending of chemicals and potash, commodities that will remain under the control of the Reparations Commission. It is also announced that shipping-interests have taken steps to re-open trade routes between the United States and Germany. It is expected that cotton, copper, and other badly needed commodities will be rushed to Germany.

An amusing story recently circulated states that a New York firm doing a large business with Germany

before the war, has just sent out letters to German firms beginning: "Your communication of August 1, 1914, to hand and in reply beg to state—" The story is more than humorous; it has a wholesome significance. It is apparent that the wartime hysteria which caused the publication of lists of firms which would never again trade with Germany is rapidly disappearing. Many American business concerns are willing enough to trade with Germany. They have no wish to annihilate the industries of Germany. It was only her militarism that the allies sought to destroy. By hard work and satisfactory evidence that her conversion to republicanism is heartfelt and not a sham, Germany may become a respected member of the community of civilized nations.

About now a lot of people who used to vote for trust busting, are combining to get their wages or the prices of their products doubled.

GERMANY FIRST TO SIGN

The German National Assembly was the first elective body in any country whose representatives signed the treaty to adopt ratification resolution. The treaty has been laid before the British, French and Belgian parliaments and was placed before the Senate of the United States yesterday by President Wilson.

Ratification of the peace treaty by the German National Assembly removed all doubt of the acceptance of the terms by Germany.

The National Assembly by ratifying the treaty makes it possible for the Allied and associated powers to raise the blockade. Official notification was sent Germany June 29 that the blockade would be raised when the treaty was ratified. Placing this condition on the raising of the blockade was looked upon in peace conference circles as a sure plan for securing a more ratification by Germany.

The council of five decided Monday to lift the commercial censorship on communications with Germany simultaneously with the removal of the blockade.

When three of the principal Allied powers, in addition to Germany, have ratified the treaty it becomes effective for those who have ratified it. After Germany and the three Allied powers have ratified it, the treaty will come into force for each other power on the day when it notifies the peace conference secretariat of its ratification.

The resolution adopted by the Allied council concerning the blockade was as follows:

"The superior blockade council is instructed to base its arrangements for rescinding restrictions upon trade with Germany upon the assumption that the Allied and associated powers will not wait to raise the blockade until the completion of ratification, as provided for at the end of the treaty with Germany, but that it is to be raised immediately upon receipt of information that the treaty of peace has been ratified by Germany."

Promulgation of the resolution ratifying the treaty is dependent upon the signing of the resolution by President Ebert.

ANOTHER GREAT OPPORTUNITY

Three hundred farmers living up in Bourbon County (Kansas), that's where Ft. Scott is located and where they have a modern creamery and 2800 high class milk cows and incidentally a Borden's condensory, are going to spend some time taking a trip up into Wisconsin this fall looking at better milk cows. They want to come back with some of those cows in their grips, so to speak, in order to sell more milk to the big milk factory.

Baxter Springs has the same opportunity to get into the glad game with her vast acreage nearby of meadows and pasture land; the creamery is here and the farmers are willing to milk the cows and bring in the milk if the community will do the other necessary thing. That is, get some good roads. Of course, the farmers will have to pay their part of the cost but the initiative seems to lie with the business men in this city. The great opportunity to combine a high class farm district with that of the richest farm district in America is upon us. The sooner the quicker as the hired man said when the bull came after him.

ZINC CHLORIDE PRESERVATIVES

Zinc chloride might well be used in this section and in many other portions of the United States for treating railroad ties, to the exclusion of creosote, according to investigations recently made. An article in the Engineering News-Record has this to say on the subject:

"The scarcity of creosote needed in timber treating for the past two years, due to the restrictions on imports and the increased use of coal tar for fuel by the steel industry, has directed attention to the possible wider use of other treating materials, especially for cross ties. Among those under consideration, zinc chloride has been most commonly used, and large numbers of service records on zinc-treated cross ties were available.

"Accordingly, it was proposed to plot these records on a map of the United States to determine if possible the relation between the location of successful tests of zinc-treated ties for different periods of service on the one hand and lines of equal rainfall on the other. By this means it was hoped to suggest a more or less definite area where zinc chloride could be used to the exclusion of creosote.

"The proceedings of the American Railway Engineering Association and of the American Wood Preservers' Association were consulted for data on service tests of zinc-treated ties, and where exact locations were not shown they were determined by consulting original records from various roads, on file at the forest products laboratory. The location of lines of equal rainfall were taken from bulletin Q of the weather bureau, United States Department of Agriculture.

"Three outline maps of the United States were prepared, showing the geographical location of test tracks containing zinc-treated cross ties which had been in service for eight years, for ten years and for twelve years. Those tracks where 25 per cent or less of all zinc-treated ties had been removed in this period, and those where 50 to 100 per cent had been removed, were designated by different symbols.

"Comparatively few records are available south and east of the 40-inch rainfall line, which extends roughly from Galveston, Tex., through St. Louis, Pittsburgh, Albany, N. Y., and on the northeastern Maine. On the map showing eight years' service, however, the tracks with less than 25 per cent renewals, or the 'successful' tests, are numerous near this forty-inch rainfall line, while seven out of a total of thirteen 'failures' are south or east of this line. Four 'successful' tests are also located south and east of the line.

"The data as plotted on these maps, while rather meager, indicate in a general way that the arid western states and the central, Atlantic Coast and New England states north of the forty-inch rainfall line form a definite area where cross ties treated with a straight zinc chloride may be expected to give from eight to ten years' service. It is felt that the line might well be extended in its central part to include all the area north and west of the Ohio River drainage area, but sufficient data are not available to support this opinion."

SOME WILLS, LIKE SOME

MINDS ARE FOOL PROOF

OTHERS EVERYTHING ELSE

When a man dies he may think that his earthly career is ended. Not if he leaves a will. His spirit may go to heaven, but that precious vehicle for property distribution, the will, serves to keep his memory fresh in the minds of an interested public long years after his grave is sunken.

Some wills, like some people, are sound. They will stand the "treat 'em rough" of courts, relatives and lawyers. Others are fragile and will fall to pieces if barely scrutinized. Still others, the freak variety, will remain intact in their probate court overcoats. No one, not even the smartest lawyers, are able to fathom their secret meanings.

"If it were not for the lawyers citizens would display the same freaks in the matter of their wills that they do in other lines of business," said a local lawyer. "Once in a while we have a lot of trouble to persuade a client that some freak notion of his concerning his will would not stand in court."

One of the famous old wills in Kansas is that of the late Dr. Henry Wisner, of Barber county, who never practiced medicine, but just acquired the title. Doctor Wisner had a life-time he gathered in about \$100,000. He had two sons, alleged to be addicted to the liquor habit. When he died he left a will. He had cut his sons off with miniature bequests. A small portion of his fortune went to the Chester I. Long family and some of it to the W. C. T. U. The will was contested by the sons because of alleged mental disability on the part of their father.

He Trusted the Women

In part the will read: "Carrie Nation was a victim of intemperance and I feel that I have been a victim of the same. In all business I have never known a defaulter who wore petticoats. In all business transactions, you call to mind, it is rare that ever a woman defaulted. For that reason I have more confidence in an institution run by women than in an institution managed by men. I have a great deal more confidence in their moral and financial honesty. This is why I select the W. C. T. U. to receive a part of my money."

The supreme court of Kansas upheld the will, because, it is said, of pointed a Mrs. Roundtree administratrix, and wanted her to look after her in the "strictest" manner. Altho the estate only amounted to about \$100, the woman left her "private secretary" \$10 and countless other bequests. In closing her will she made these few remarks:

"I do not want to be buried in a

black casket, but in a light gray or a lavender. I do not want to be sent to the undertaker to be dressed. I want to stay in my house until the day of my burial. The Heroines of Jericho, and the Golden Sheafs have \$160 for my burial. I want a white hearse and white horses. At my burial service I do not want the Rev. Frank Wilson or Mrs. Emma Gaines to have anything to say, but to remain silent. I do not owe anybody in the world anything. I pay cash for everything."

A wealthy Topeka man died a few years ago. He left a notation in his will that he did not want a casket costing over \$50. It is said his family scoured Chicago to find the casket.

Some Wills Expensive

In one case a woman died who possessed \$30,000 worth of real and personal property. She had talked to lawyers concerning her will and finally sat down and wrote it herself. It contained many queer bequests and was so uncertain in its provisions that it took one-tenth of her estate to pay lawyers for their services in aiding the court to decipher what she meant.

There is a popular impression that the testator must give something to each of his children in order to keep them from breaking the will. Out of this freak notion has grown the unusual number of \$1 bequests in many wills.

"There is nothing to this idea," says a Topeka lawyer, "the only reason ever assigned for the \$1 is to show that the testator had the legatee in mind when he wrote the will. Not long ago the will of a well-to-do Negro woman was probated. She had ten children and to eight of them she gave \$1 and gave her home to the two the sound doctrine expressed in the part of the will quoted.

Out in western Kansas this story of a will is told: One day a shabbily dressed man stopped at a farm house and begged for food. The housewife fixed him a "hand out." When the man had eaten the fresh bread and drank the new milk, he told the woman that he would remember her kindness in his will. He then took a pencil and paper from his pocket and drew up his will. Some years later the man died. He left a large estate. But because there had been no witnesses to the will the courts ruled that the will was invalid, and the housewife received nothing.

At Westmoreland an old man died, leaving his property to his daughter, providing that she did not marry a certain red-headed Irishman. No

names were mentioned but the girl's fiancé answered the description in the will. However, the girl married the red-headed man and also inherited the property.

Items of personal property are oftentimes noted in wills. In the will left by Robert Ives Lee he wrote, "In my possession is a sword belonging to my father, William Raymond Lee, presented to him by the Association of Civil Engineers—upon the death of Thomas A. Lee—the sword is to revert to the Boston public library." A Topeka woman, an old maid, in her will stated that she wished her tombstone to be marked with her name and the date of her death "only."

Not long ago a will was filed in the probate court. The deceased, a woman, willed a set of false teeth to a relative. The teeth were worth about \$300, it was found, because they were porcelain. The new owner expects to have them reset for her "Sunday best" set. In the same will, a backscratcher was left to another relative.

One Sarah Harrison died in Topeka many years ago. Sarah was a Negro woman. She was under the impression that she owned much gold mining stock. In her will she left the stocks and bonds to many relatives. The mining company could never be located.

The Harrison will is noted for other eccentric points. The deceased apportioned children. One of her sons-in-law came in one day while we were reading the list of \$1 bequests. He wanted to know if we were studying the genealogy of his wife's family.

WERE MISTREATED SOLDIERS TESTIFY

House Committee Hears Story of Officers' Cruelty to Military Prisoners in France

Washington, July 15.—Six former American soldiers testified today before a special house committee investigating alleged cruelties to military prisoners in France, declared that merciless assaults were committed without provocation on the prisoners by arrogant officers in charge of the prison camps. Only one of the witnesses, all of whom were charged with being absent without leave, was convicted, the others having been acquitted or the charge dismissed.

The bastille, the stockade, prison farm No. 2 and Stann's hotel, also known as the "brig," were the places named by the witnesses as the scenes of the alleged cruelties, which were said to have extended over several months in 1918. Some officers in charge of the prison camps, it was said, had been convicted by court-martial and others were awaiting trial.

"Hard Boiled" Smith Named
Lieutenant "Hard Boiled" Smith, one of the prison camp officers, was mentioned frequently, while others named were Lieutenants Mason and Sullivan and Sergeants Ball, Wolfmeyer and Bush.

"Did they try the general in charge of the camp?" asked Chairman Royal Johnson, who left his seat in congress to serve with the army board.

"Not that anyone heard of," responded the witness.

When Lieutenant "Hard Boiled" Smith was tried at Tours early this year a hundred witnesses appeared against him and he was convicted, testified Sidney Kemp, New York city, who was a corporal with company F, 102nd engineers, 28th division.

"Fifty witnesses whom I can name will verify everything said here and tell more, too, asserted Kemp.

Bedding Was Poor

Several of the soldiers testified that in addition to being beaten, food in small amounts and of poor quality was supplied, and that the bedding was poor, sometimes the mattresses being in mud under a small tent.

"A prisoner was smiling and an officer says, 'Take that smile off or I will,'" A. H. Mendelberg, Baltimore, who served with base hospital 42, testified. "The officer did so by rolling the man in the mud," Mendelberg added.

"Did you get that officer's name?" asked Representative Flood, democrat of Virginia.

"I'm too sorry I did not take his name," answered Mendelberg.

When telling of poor food, Mendelberg said that "if you asked for an extra piece of bread you were flat on your back."

Meals, he and others said, consisted of a stew made from canned beef, one slice of bread and part of a cup of coffee. Sometimes only the stew was served, witnesses said.

The principal suffering endured by the Congressmen during the hot summer session, is out under the sun on the baseball bleachers.

It will probably be safe for German salesmen to come over here to solicit trade, if they travel in well protected armored tanks.

BUY WESTERN KANSAS FARMS FOR SOLDIERS

Lay Out Land in Communities, Irrigate Farms and Make It Possible for Men to Own Them

Wichita, July 14.—(Special)—Large quantities of western Kansas land are under consideration for purchase by the United States government to be used for making into farm settlements for returned soldiers, sailors and marines, it became known here today.

The land will probably consist of some of the large stretches of pasture acreage in western Kansas counties. It is to be reclaimed by irrigation, and developed into fertile farm community settlements, where there will be close neighbors, good roads and a market for products.

Waiting on Congress

The ex-service men who intend to own the farms in this community will be the ones to develop it, according to the government plan, worked out by the department of agriculture. Probably \$1,000,000 will be spent in this state on the plan. All that holds back the actual purchase and starting on the extensive project is the passage by congress of the bill authorizing sufficient appropriations.

The men will not be given the farms, by any means, but by an easy payment plan they may own them and begin paying for them out of the wages the government will give them for helping to prepare the settlement. Good wages will be paid. After the settlement has been laid out, houses erected, farms platted, crops planted, school houses constructed, creameries and elevators built, then each ex-service man will be allowed to choose a farm.

Every Man a Chance

Ordinarily farms will be from forty to eighty acres; stock farms from eighty to 160 acres; fruit farms from fifteen to twenty, and truck farms from five to ten acres. Not only Kansas will contain these soldier communities, but other states as well, giving choice of all kinds of soils and climates. When the projects are actually begun, there will be positions for men as laborers to the highest technical and clerical positions.

Every man who wore the United States uniform may have one of the farms, if he is willing to work. The plan is heralded as the most progressive and far-reaching for the good of the veterans and of the country, even projected by any government.

HOCKERVILLE FIELD

COMING TO FRONT

Argyle and Sullivan Preparing to Start Choctaw Chief and Lucky Jenny Mills

Argyle and Sullivan, who have recently leased the mills of the Choctaw Chief and the Lucky Jenny at Hockerville, are preparing to put the mills in operation within a few weeks.

The shaft at the Choctaw Chief has been sunk to a lower level and a better run of ore is reported to have been found.

Plans are being made to pump water from the Indian Queen mine, to the mills, which are on adjoining leases.

The two mines are located in good territory and there is a good prospect of their being developed into paying properties.

W. H. Logan and Harry Lash are reported as believing they have another Blue Bonnet bonanza in the Lucky Strike lease south of St. Louis.

Several holes have been put down by these operators and they brought in one only eight feet from the shaft that was put down by the original Lucky Strike company where the cuttings assayed 46 per cent. This is in line with the rich cuttings reported by the first company but which they somehow failed to prove when they sunk their shaft. It is true, however, that the death of the president of the company disrupted the organization about the time the mill was ready to start, and it may be that this is a full explanation of the apparent first failure of the property.

BRITISH COURT HAS NO SYMPATHY FOR NEW DANCES

London, July 16.—The new dances which are done more with the upper part of the body than with the feet find little popularity among London's judiciary.

A woman proprietor of a dancing academy recently appeared before Justice Darlin, suing for the return of her piano.

"Why," asked the justice in surprise, "can people dance these modern dances to such a civilized instrument as the piano? I should have thought that a tom tom would be more appropriate."